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3. (Twice Amended) The container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rigid peripheral support structure is a rigid frame on which the elastically deformable structures are stretched between two roughly opposite points.

4. (Twice Amended) The container as claimed in claim 3, wherein the rigid peripheral support structure comprises at least one ring having an inside diameter D and a center C, and the elastically deformable structures are elastic bands attached in groups of two juxtaposed elastic bands and fixed to the ring at their diametrically opposed ends.

5. (Twice Amended) The container as claimed in claim 4, wherein the closure member is a sleeve made of flexible material having a diameter D and a length of at least twice this diameter, each end of the sleeve passes through each pair of elastic bands in the center C of the ring, where the sleeve is contracted radially in the closed rest state of the device, or defines a single through opening for the object in the open state of the device, in which state the elastic bands are deformed radially.

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10. (Twice Amended) The container as claimed in claim 5, wherein the elastic bands are eight in number and juxtaposed and attached in pairs distributed in such a way as to pass through the center of their corresponding supporting ring so as to form in the respective supporting ring eight essentially identical sectors.

11. (Twice Amended) The container as claimed in claim 5, wherein the elastic bands are under tension on their corresponding supporting ring in the closed state of the device.

12. (Twice Amended) The container as claimed in claim 1, wherein said container is a straight or curved cylinder provided with a closure device at each end.

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13. (Twice Amended) The container as claimed in claim 1, further including at least a part made of a transparent material.

14. (Twice Amended) The container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the container is made of materials adapted for being used under weightless conditions.

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